

Timber Lakes Representatives Meet With County Officials

8-592

The Wasatch County Commission conceded last Wednesday morning that some roads through the Timber Lakes recreational subdivision may be safe, and serve the public, without being as wide as 26 feet, but they refuse to budge on any concessions that may risk public safety, especially regarding fire dangers.

Whatever is decided regarding the 2,000-lot subdivision will set precedents for other developments. In addition, the emergency plan that is worked out for Timber Lakes can serve as a model for other mountain subdivisions.

The commissioners called a special meeting with fire and planning officials, the sheriff, members of the Timber Lakes Homeowners Association board, and the developer, Veigh Cummings, to discuss how to keep people in the subdivision safe in case of fire, and how wide the roads should be for the next phase of the development.

Lee Roy Farrell, representing the county's engineering firm, Eckhoff, Watson & Preator, explained that in addition to the main road into Timber Lakes, there are two bulldozed escape roads out of the west side. He said they both had crash gates—wooden, locked gates that a vehicle can run through in case of emergency—with metal gates behind them, on Cummings' private property. He said the metal gates had been locked, but Cummings said he unlocked them.

One of the gates opens toward the subdivision, and has to be lifted to be opened, so that a vehicle es-

- Although an escape plan would designate the main road as an exit, that also is the only way for emergency vehicles to enter.

- The breakdown of a single vehicle on either the main road or an exit road could make the road unpassable by residents trying to leave or emergency vehicles trying to get in.

- It would be natural for people to assume a lake would be a safe zone, but fire can cross a lake, using up the surface oxygen, and smoke can overcome a person in a lake.

- Even if all the Timber Lakes homeowners had maps designating escape routes and safe zones, many of the people in the subdivision are visitors, especially on weekends.

- All exits are narrow, and ulti-

mately head west and downhill to the same county road, which emergency vehicles made need to use as an entrance; the west side also is covered with scrub oak, which can fuel a fire like gasoline; in addition some 350 propane tanks are scattered through the subdivision.

- A person can't outrun a wildfire.

In addition, one of the homeowners claims the only road out that is passable by two-wheel drive passenger cars is the main road, but Cummings disagrees.

To demonstrate the number of people and vehicles that would have to be considered in any escape plan, Bud Breeze, vice president of the homeowners association, said that during one weekend in which there

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traffic, and when more pedestrians cross Main St. each hour than during any other time of the year.

Moving the Country Market and talent shows to the city park will change the pedestrian traffic patterns, maybe for the good, and maybe not. Instead of pedestrians concentrated within a couple of blocks, going back and forth from fair booths to sidewalk sales, they'll probably be spread out from the park to the northern end of the sales.

intersections, looking both ways before signaling for lane changes as we move to the center of the street whether the car is in the way and giving right of way to pedestrians.

Please make sure your kids know the laws when they hop on their bikes. They are supposed to obey the laws to protect themselves. Riders must obey the laws to protect others.

David Wilson Will Be Missed

by Sonni Schwinn

We all knew something was wrong when David Wilson was addressing the Jordanelle Parkway meeting in the middle school auditorium July 29.

David had made many speeches in front of larger groups of people that included dignitaries of much higher status than were there that night, always with poise and an apparent calmness. So his faltering delivery could not have been because of stage fright. He had always thoroughly prepared his presentations and closely followed his notes, often reading directly from them, never straying from his subject and never taking up any extra time, although his knowledge of water issues was so extensive that he could have easily done so.

that became too technical for me to follow. Dave knew more about water issues better than they did in the area. I hope they've read in *The Wave* can thank him.

Because Dave's assignment for the county was to fight against all attempts to take it, water was often was in an adversarial position. But because of his kindness, he never turned his adversarial position into a kind of held his ground when defending his position. He was right, but was so gracious and in the end soon became willing to compromise. He was always going in their heels and preparing to take them.

Dave was only human, so he had his moments and become frustrated and angry with some of his county. When those subjects came up, he would express my opinions about them and I would chuckle at me, and say something to counter my negativism with some of his own. He could always find something good in people and projects.

It would be difficult to find anyone better than Dave did. Because of his dedication to his county's welfare, his intelligence, his kind but firm way of looking at things, his logical and optimistic approach to making the best of bad situations, his ability to make bad situations the best through his communication for communicating and teaching his listeners, I will personally miss David Wilson. I will miss him.

The countless consultants, and friends, who throughout his life also relied on his knowledge and intelligence, but he will miss him.